

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

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R 121535Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4850

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1742

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AG

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT TO ALGIERS BISHOP MURDERED

1. JULY 8 MURDER OF MONSEIGNEUR JACQUIER, AUZILIARY BISHOP OF ALGIERS, ATTRIBUTED TO INSANE ASSAIN AND ACCUSED MURDERER UNDER ARREST. JACQUIER'S AGE (72), RESPECT IN WHICH HE HELD BECAUSE OF HIS SUPPORT FOR ALGERIAN CAUSE DURING REVOLUTION AND HIS ASSUMPTION OF ALGERIAN NATIONALITY AFTER ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE HAVE LED MOST OBSERVERS TO DISCOUNT POLITICAL MOTIVE. ALGERIAN MEDIA PAYING HOMAGE TO HIM AND EXPRESSING APPROPRIATE HORROR AT HIS DEATH.

2. HIS MURDER, HOWEVER, DOES ILLUSTRATE DISTURBING TRENDS IN LOCAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. THREE THEMES EMERGE:

A. RANDOM CRIME, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUTH, HAS RISEN OVER PAST YEAR BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, AND URBAN INFLUX.

B. RECENT PUBLICIZED NATIONALIZATION OF CATHOLIC PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND STRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF ISLAM DURING DEBATE ON NATIONAL CHARTER HAS INCREASED PROMINENCE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH AS ALIEN BODY IN ALGERIA. FRENCH AND SPANISH EMBOFFS REPORT RECENT

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INCIDENTS OF CATHOLIC SISTERS BEING STONED IN

STREETS BY URCHINS, FIRST SUCH INCIDENTS SINCE JUST AFTER INDEPENDENCE ACCORDING FRENCH EMBOFF. VATICAN HAS SENT NOTE OF REGRET TO ALGIERS BISHOP, CARDINAL DUVAL. NOTE, TEXT OF WHICH NOT RELEASED HERE, ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBOFF IS EXTREMELY STRONG AND AMONG FEW OF ITS TYPE.

C. FRENCH EMBOFF, WHO HERE SEVERAL YEARS, CLAIMS TO NOTE STEADY INCREASE IN XENOPHOBIC-ANTI-WESTERN CONTENT OF ALGERIAN MEDIA, ESPECIALLY IN ARABIC, OVER PAST YEAR. IT APPEARS TO US TOO THAT EVENTS SUCH AS SAHARA AND LEBANON HAVE SPURRED ON ALGERIAN MEDIA. ALTHOUGH US AS SPECIFIC TARGET HAS RECEDED SOMEWHAT IN ALGERIAN MEDIA PREOCCUPATION, WE STILL FREQUENTLY SURFACE. MEANWHILE, FRENCH UNDER ALMOST DAILY MEDIA ATTACK OVER SOMETHING (SEE ALGIERS 1708), AND HARASSMENT SPREADS BEYOND MEDIA TO SPURIOUS ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE CHARGES TO FALSE CHARGES OF ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITY. GENERALIZED ATTACKS AGAINST WESTERN IMPERIALISM REMAIN STANDARD FARE.

3. IN THIS TURBULENCE, INCIDENTS SUCH AS JACQUIER MURDER, WHILE PROBABLY NOT MOTIVATED DIRECTLY BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, DOES IN PART REFLECT CURRENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. PARKER

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**To:** STATE  
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